DJ Freshfluke's – TRAKTOR Tutorials

Tutorial #2

Recording a Mix with VMS4.1 and Traktor

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1. Introduction

This tutorial explains in short what settings to use if you want to record a mix using TRAKTOR and the VMS4.1 by American Audio.

For general audio routing questions please consult the TRAKTOR manual or search for the respective forum threads either in the TRAKTOR forums or the ADJ forums.

I'm using TRAKTOR Scratch Pro 2 version 2.6.6 in this tutorial, all paths and pictures refer to these version. However, all T(S)P2 versions behave similar in this area, so the tutorial is valid for older T(S)P2 versions, too – but maybe not for T(S)P1 versions (or older).

Please note that I'm using Windows 7 here. There might be some differences when using Windows 8. Also note that screenshots I add may contain German path and menu names, since I use a German OS. However, you'll find all the respective English paths in the text.

1.1 TL;DR?

If you just want to see the screenshots without explanation, please go to chapter 4 (Just the Essence).

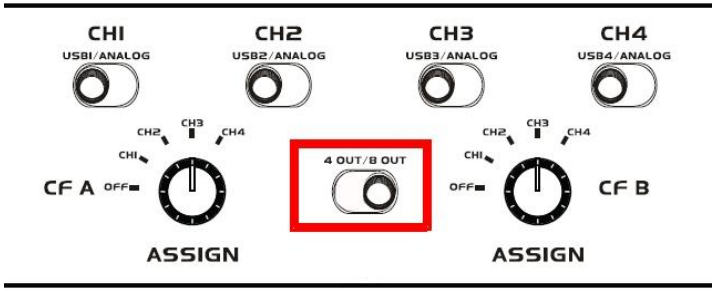
2. How do I setup the VMS4.1?

I assume you have your VMS4.1 already up and running and the routing is correctly setup. If that's not the case, please refer to the VMS and/or TRAKTOR manual.

2.1 Hardware Setup

If not already, then put the now VMS in **8-Out-Mode** via the switch on the front of the hardware.

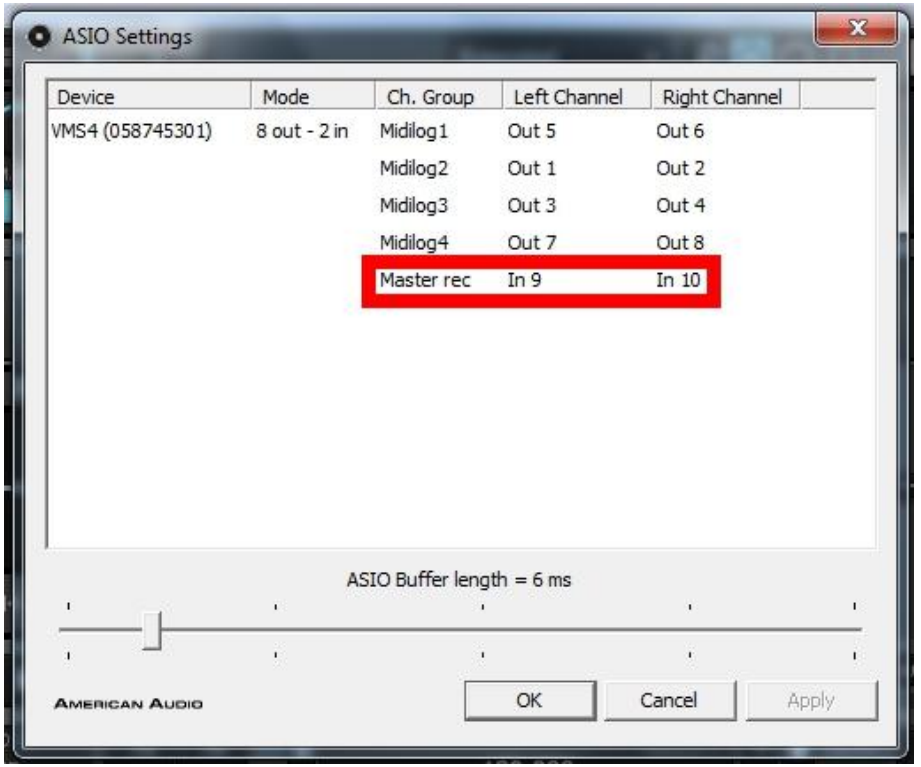
***Note**: You have to restart the VMS in order to apply the change!*



2.2 Software Setup

Windows

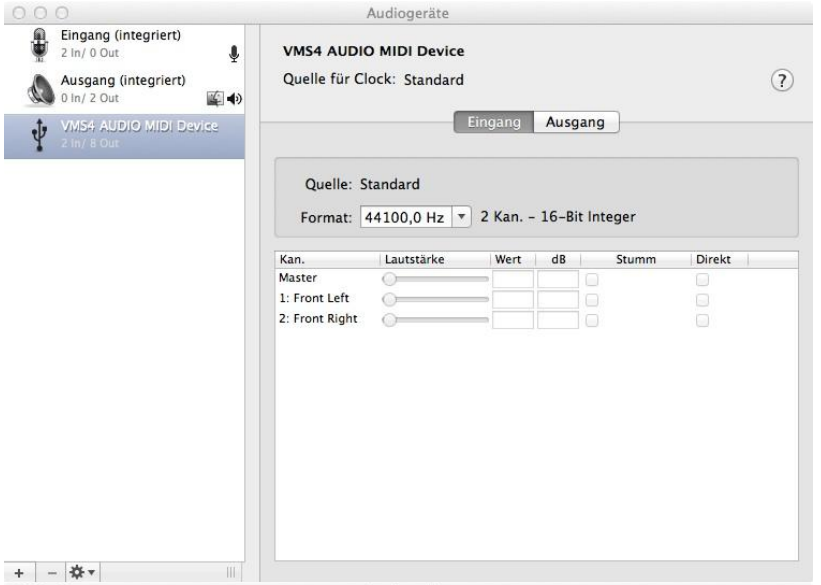
Open the ASIO Panel via: *Start > All Programs > American Audio ASIO Driver 1.22*
To assign the recording inputs, click on *Master Rec* and choose *In 9* and *In 10*.



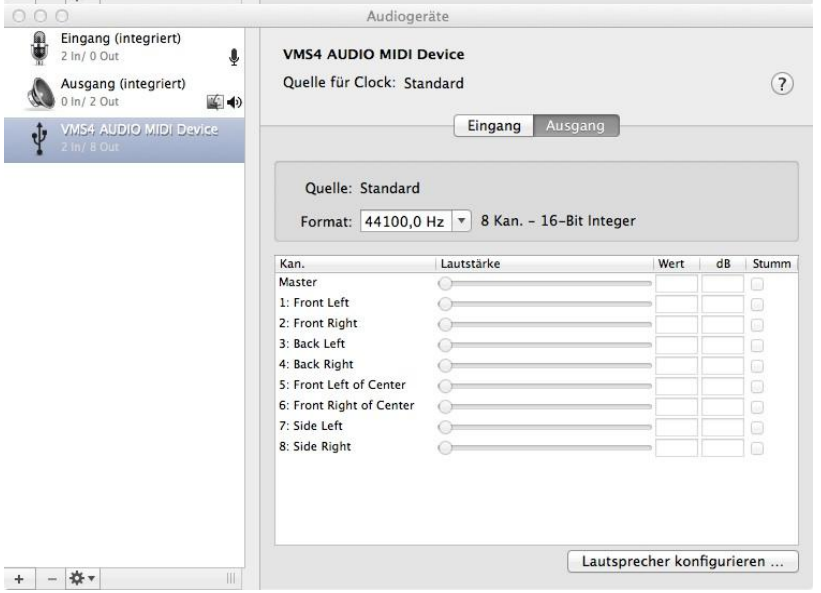
Mac

Open the *Audio MIDI Setup* via *Applications/Utilities*.

Choose the *VMS4 Audio Midi Device* and then assign *Front Left/Right* as **Inputs**.



Then click on **Outputs** and assign the channels as seen in the picture.



3. How do I setup TRAKTOR?

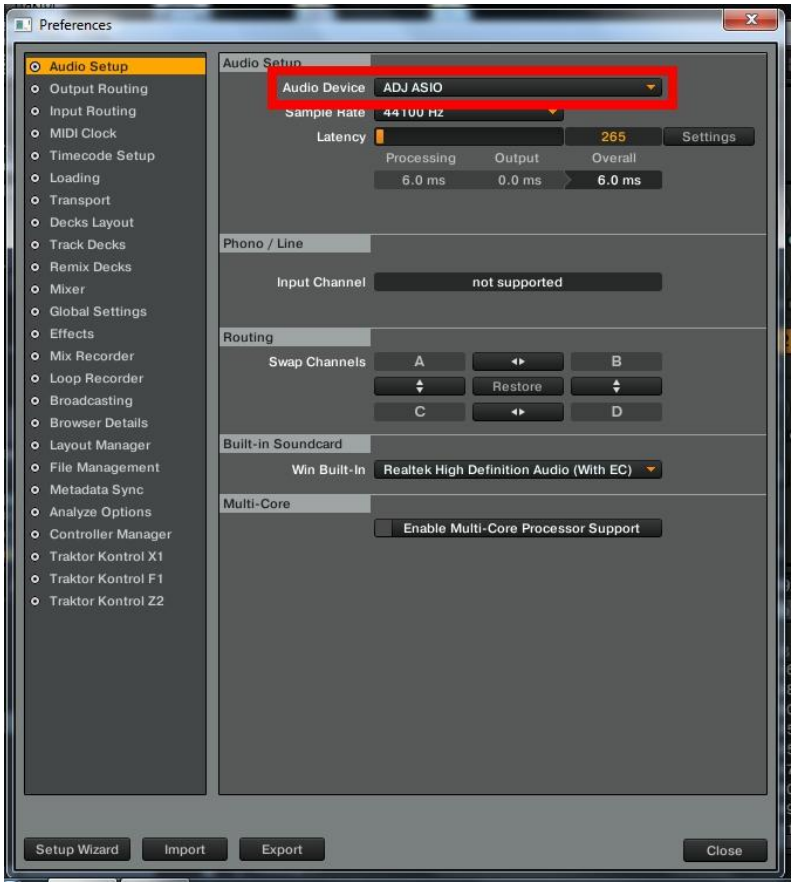
Open TRAKTORs Preferences via the *Preferences* button (gear wheel symbol) in the upper right corner of the TRAKTOR user interface.

3.1 Audio Setup

Obviously, you want to use the VMS as your audio device.

Make sure you already selected it in TRAKTORs *Audio Setup*.

Under Windows, it's called *ADJ ASIO*, under Mac it's called *VMS4 AUDIO MIDI Device*.



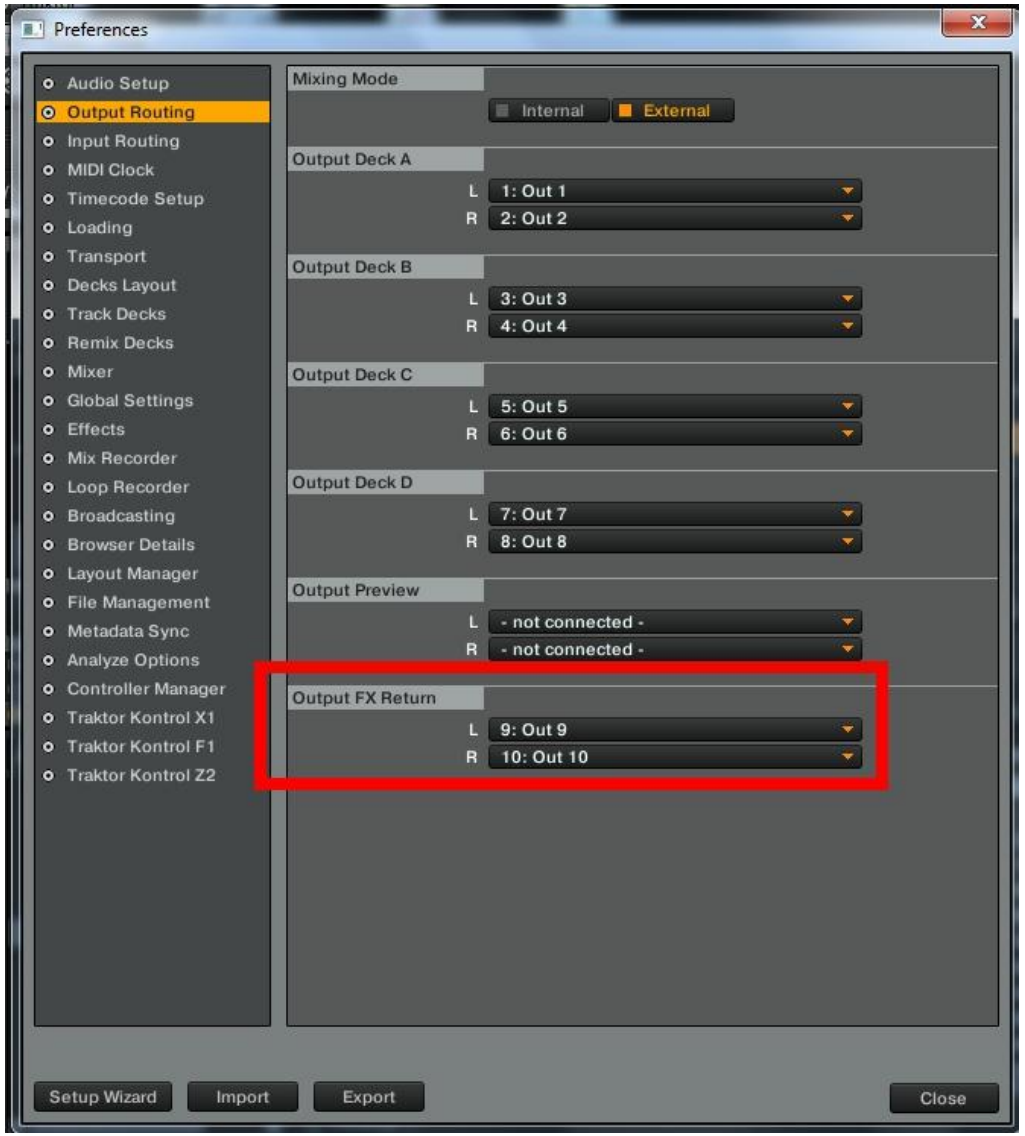
3.2 Output Routing

Windows

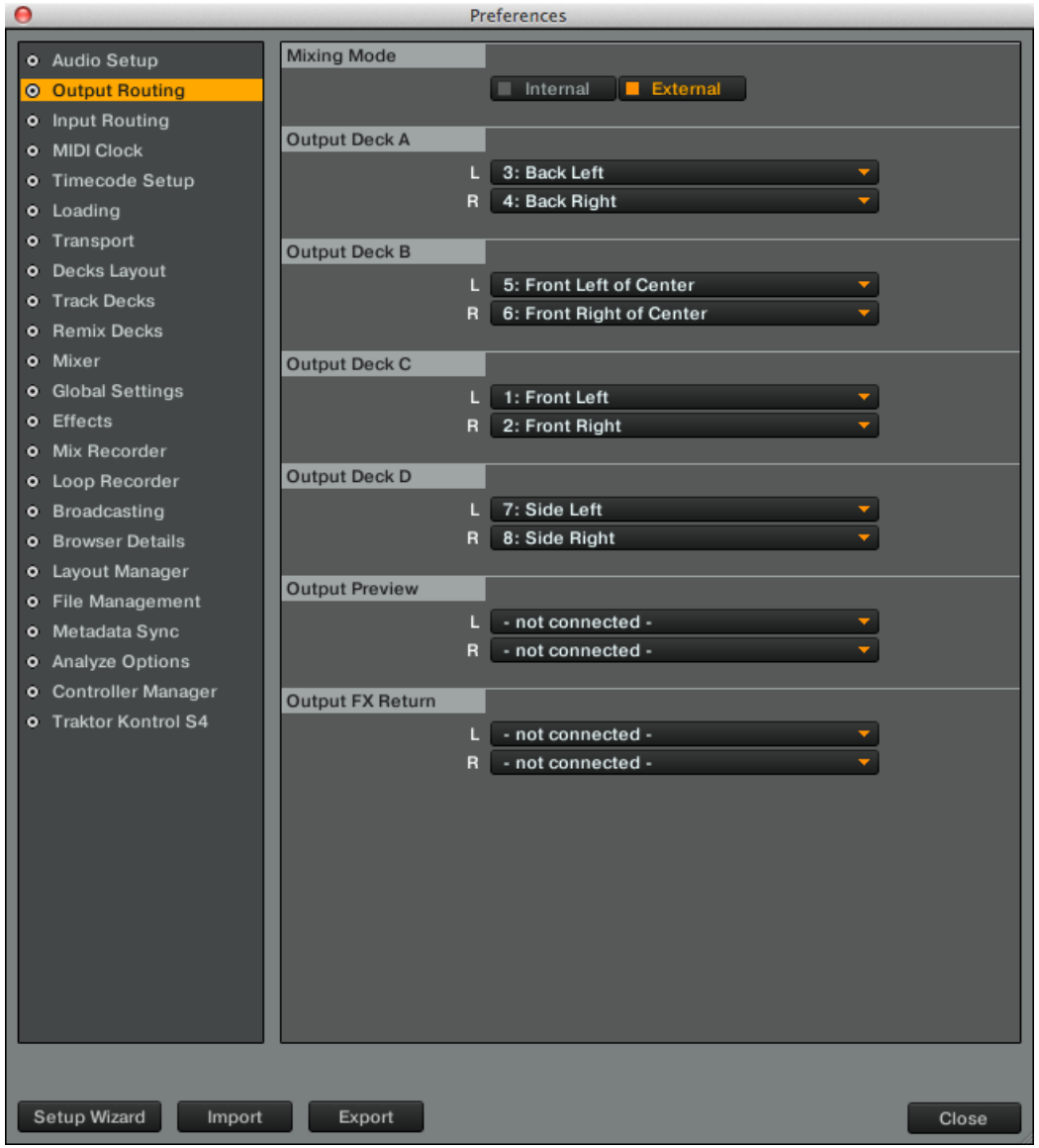
We need TRAKTOR to output actual audio and we will (ab)use the *FX Return* output for that.

The Master signal will then also be sent via the FX Return channel, usually to (guess what) to feed this signal to some external effects device. Back in the analog days, several mixers had this option; in the digital era it gets more and more obsolete.

In the *Output Routing* tab, Choose *Outputs 9 and 10* for the *FX Return* output channel, since outputs 1-8 are already occupied for the playback decks A-D.



Mac
Choose your *Output Routing* in TRAKTOR as shown in the picture.



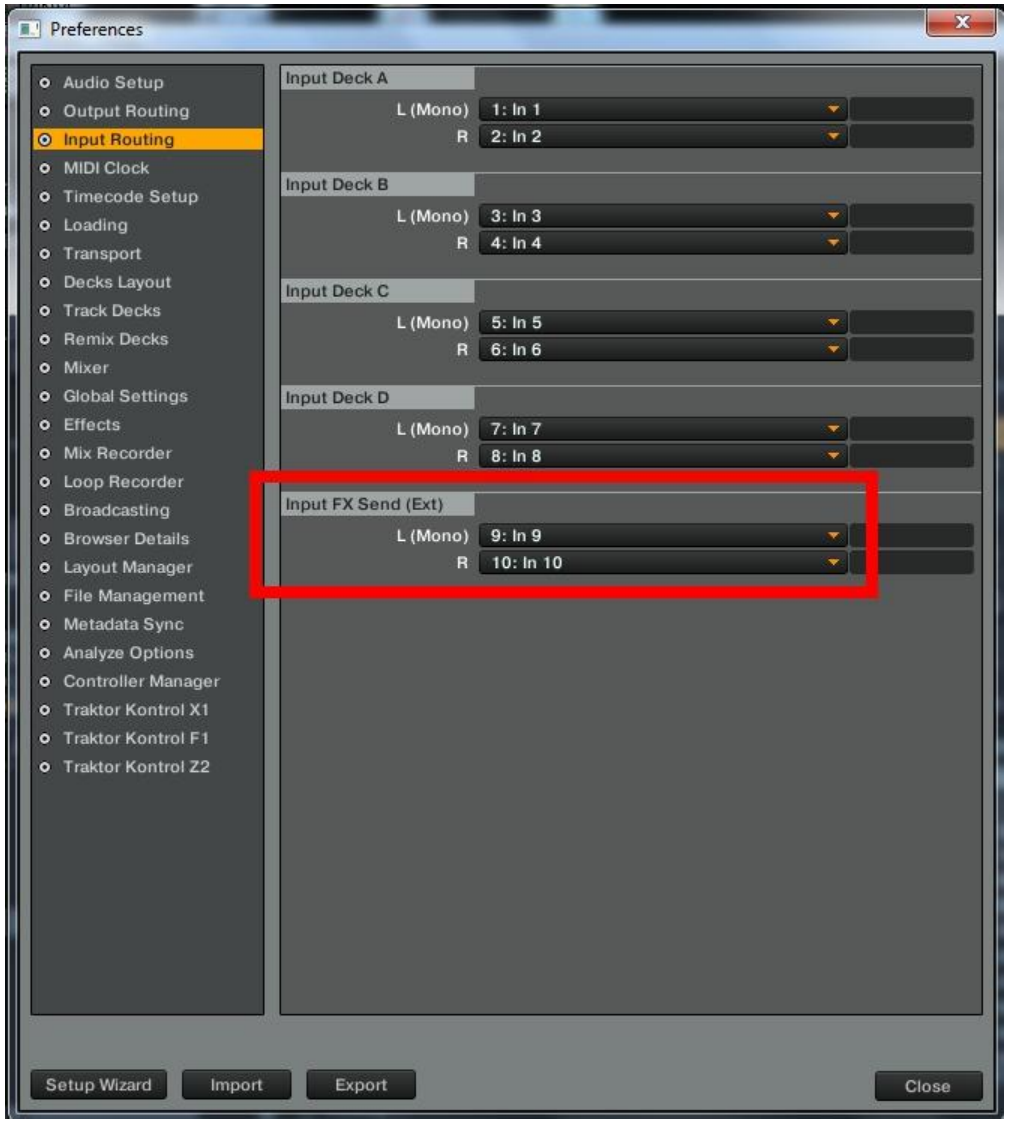
3.3 Input Routing

Windows
We sent the Master signal OUT, now we need to get it back IN.

Back in the analog days, you would have gotten now a processed FX signal back from your effect device.

However, we (ab)use this input signal for the mix recorder later, but first we got to set it up.

Under *Input Routing*, choose channels *In 9 and 10* for the *Input FX Send* channel.

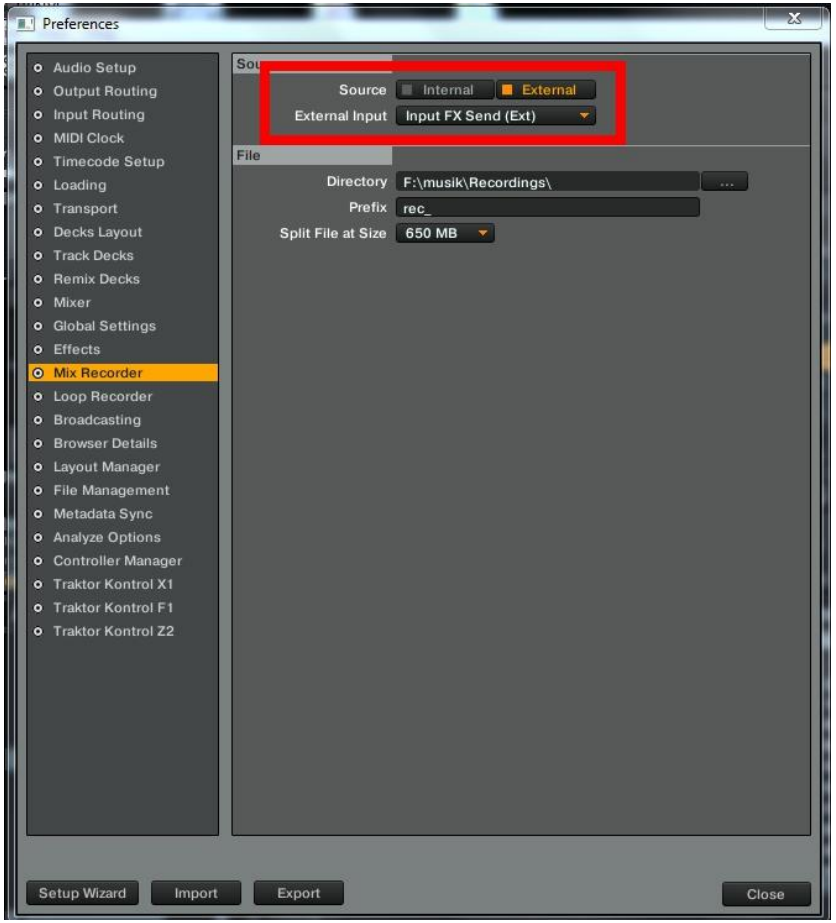


Mac
Under *Input Routing*, choose *Front Left and Front Right* as *Input FX Send*.

3.4 Mix Recorder

Now we feed TRAKTORs recorder with the previously assigned channel.

In the *Mix Recorder* tab, choose *External* as *Source*.
As *External Input* choose *Input FX Send*.



3.5 Audio Recorder

Open the *Audio Recorder* via the *Cassette* button on the upper right side. Play back a track and observe how the recording level is moving along with the Master in the upper middle of the GUI.

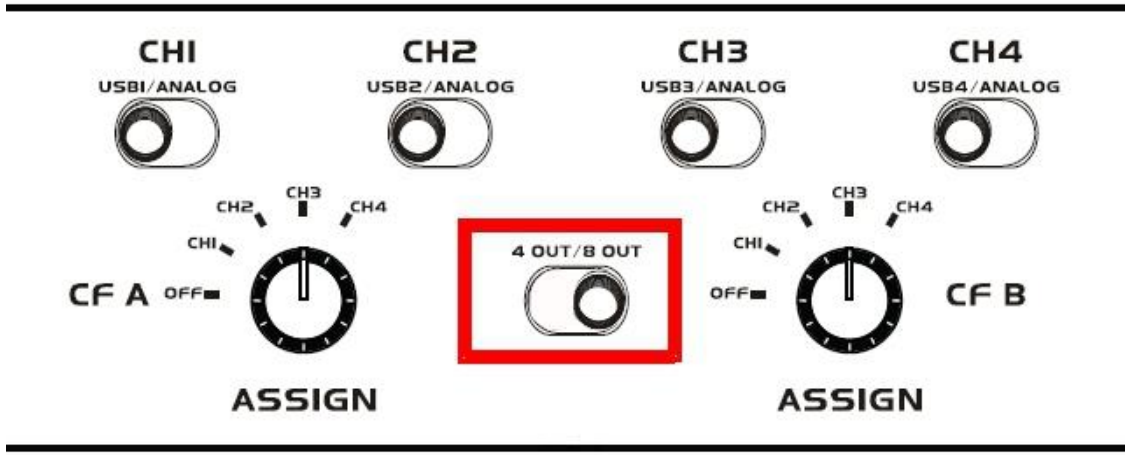
Adjust the recording level to move in the upper third, but don't set it too high! You can make a mix louder after recording, but you will never be able to remove distortion coming from a too hot signal.

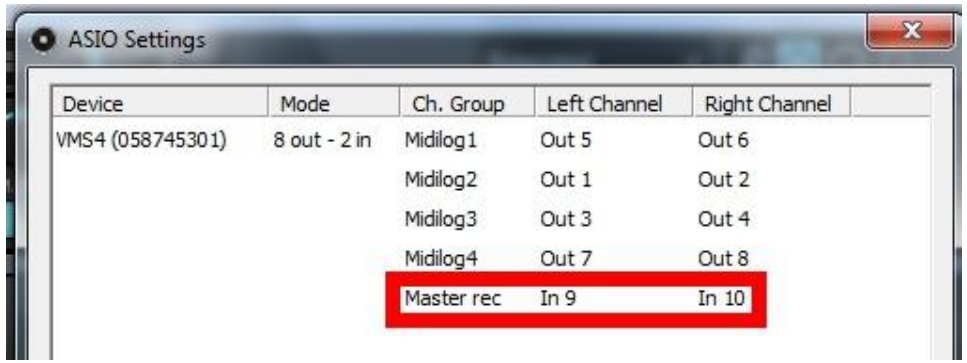
Hit the red *Record* button to start your mix (for the color blind: the button with the white circle in it) and hit it again to end your mix. For further information about the recording panel, please consult your TRAKTOR manual.

4. Just the Essence

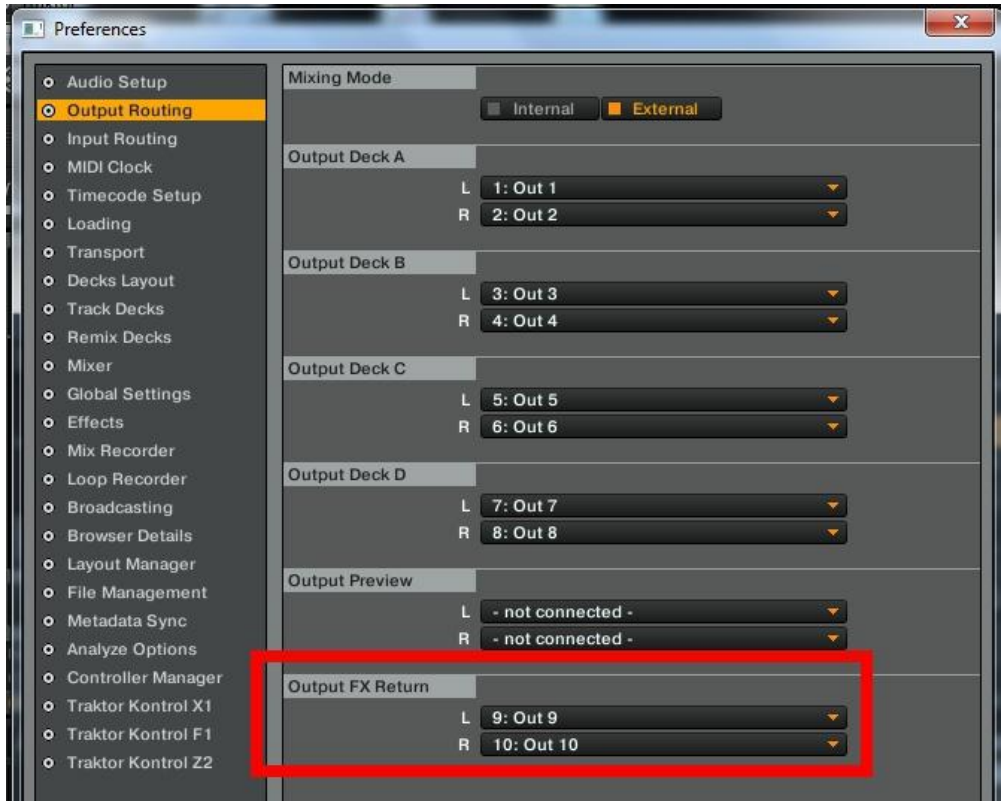
If you read all of the chapters above, just skip this. If you were brought here, because you clicked the link for the lazy in the introduction – here are your screenshots:

4.1 Windows





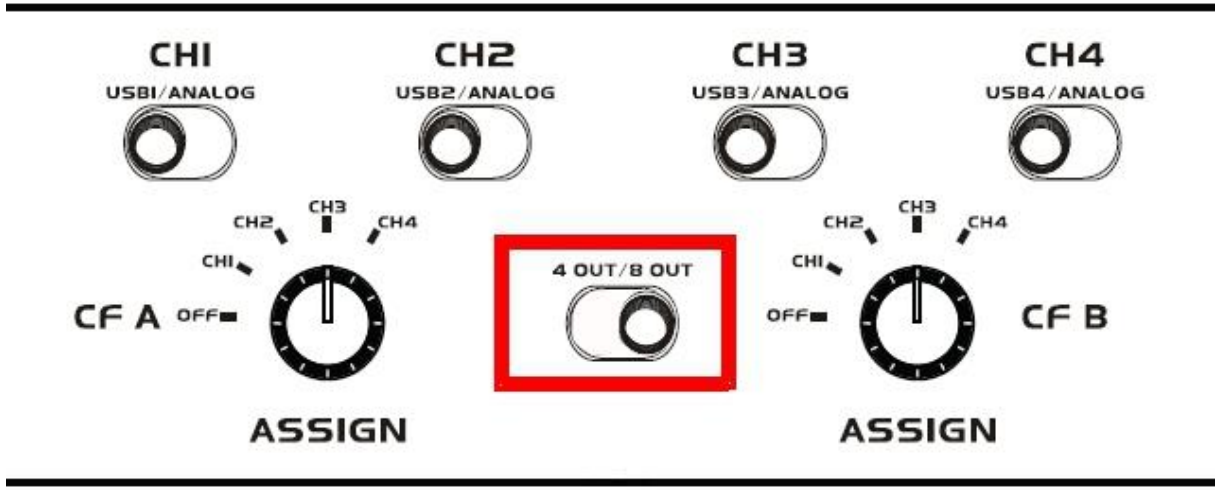
Preferences
Audio Setup
Output Routing
Input Routing
MIDI Clock
Timecode Setup
Loading
Transport
Audio Setup
Audio Device
ADJ ASIO
Sample Rate
44100 Hz
Latency
265
Settings
Processing
Output
Overall
6.0 ms
0.0 ms
6.0 ms

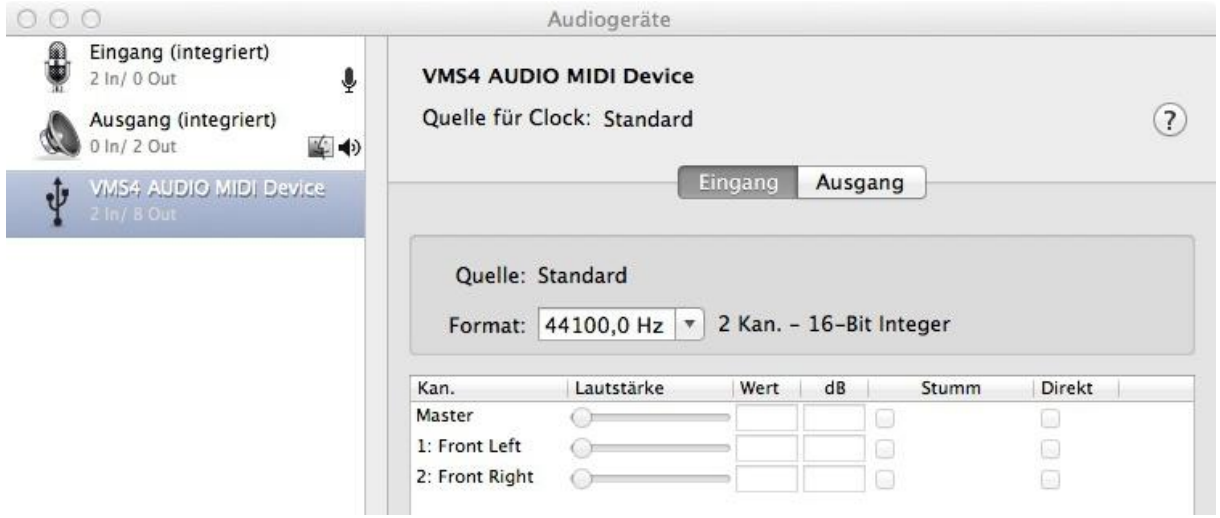

Preferences
Audio Setup
Output Routing
Input Routing
MIDI Clock
Timecode Setup
Loading
Transport
Decks Layout
Track Decks
Remix Decks
Mixer
Global Settings
Effects
Mix Recorder
Loop Recorder
Broadcasting
Browser Details
Layout Manager
File Management
Metadata Sync
Analyze Options
Controller Manager
Traktor Kontrol X1
Traktor Kontrol F1
Traktor Kontrol Z2
Mixing Mode
Internal
External
Output Deck A
L
1: Out 1
R
2: Out 2
Output Deck B
L
3: Out 3
R
4: Out 4
Output Deck C
L
5: Out 5
R
6: Out 6
Output Deck D
L
7: Out 7
R
8: Out 8
Output Preview
L
- not connected -
R
- not connected -
Output FX Return
L
9: Out 9
R
10: Out 10

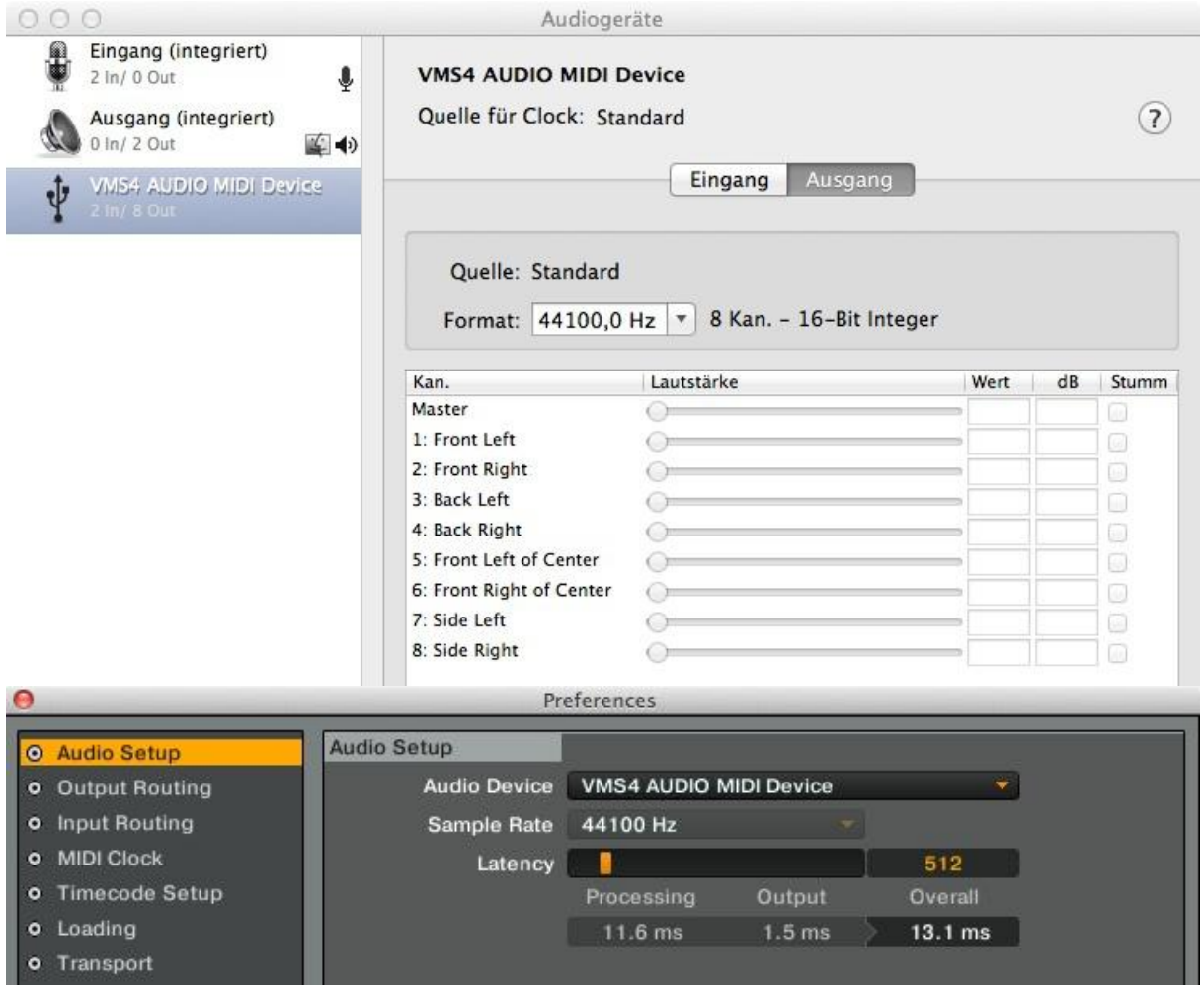
Input Routing
MIDI Clock
Timecode Setup
Loading
Transport
Decks Layout
Track Decks
Remix Decks
Mixer
Global Settings
Effects
Mix Recorder
Loop Recorder
Broadcasting
Browser Details
Layout Manager
File Management
Metadata Sync
R 2: In 2
Input Deck B
L (Mono) 3: In 3
R 4: In 4
Input Deck C
L (Mono) 5: In 5
R 6: In 6
Input Deck D
L (Mono) 7: In 7
R 8: In 8
Input FX Send (Ext)
L (Mono) 9: In 9
R 10: In 10

Audio Setup
Output Routing
Input Routing
MIDI Clock
Timecode Setup
Loading
Transport
Decks Layout
Track Decks
Remix Decks
Mixer
Global Settings
Effects
Mix Recorder
Source Internal External
External Input Input FX Send (Ext)
File
Directory F:\musik\Recordings\
Prefix rec_
Split File at Size 650 MB

4.2 Mac


CH1
USB1/ANALOG
CH2
USB2/ANALOG
CH3
USB3/ANALOG
CH4
USB4/ANALOG
CH2
CH3
CH4
CH1
CF A
OFF
4 OUT/8 OUT
CH2
CH3
CH4
CH1
OFF
CF B
ASSIGN
ASSIGN


Audiogeräte
Eingang (integriert)
2 In/ 0 Out
Ausgang (integriert)
0 In/ 2 Out
VMS4 AUDIO MIDI Device
2 In/ 8 Out
VMS4 AUDIO MIDI Device
Quelle für Clock: Standard
Eingang
Ausgang
Quelle: Standard
Format: 44100,0 Hz
2 Kan. - 16-Bit Integer
Kan.
Lautstärke
Wert
dB
Stumm
Direkt
Master
1: Front Left
2: Front Right


Audiogeräte
Eingang (integriert)
2 In/ 0 Out
Ausgang (integriert)
0 In/ 2 Out
VMS4 AUDIO MIDI Device
2 In/ 8 Out
VMS4 AUDIO MIDI Device
Quelle für Clock: Standard
Eingang
Ausgang
Quelle: Standard
Format: 44100,0 Hz
8 Kan. – 16-Bit Integer
Kan.
Lautstärke
Wert
dB
Stumm
Master
1: Front Left
2: Front Right
3: Back Left
4: Back Right
5: Front Left of Center
6: Front Right of Center
7: Side Left
8: Side Right
Preferences
Audio Setup
Output Routing
Input Routing
MIDI Clock
Timecode Setup
Loading
Transport
Audio Setup
Audio Device
VMS4 AUDIO MIDI Device
Sample Rate
44100 Hz
Latency
512
Processing
Output
Overall
11.6 ms
1.5 ms
13.1 ms

Audio Setup
Output Routing
Input Routing
MIDI Clock
Timecode Setup
Loading
Transport
Decks Layout
Track Decks
Remix Decks
Mixer
Global Settings
Effects
Mix Recorder
Source
Internal
External
External Input
Input FX Send (Ext)
File
Directory
F:\musik\Recordings\
Prefix
rec_
Split File at Size
650 MB

5. Frequently Asked Questions

This chapter collects a few common questions that arise every now and then in the forum.

5.1 After switching to 8-Out-Mode i still dont have enough channels, why?

You need to restart your VMS4.1 in order to make the output mode change active.

5.2 My Recording is distorted, why?

Check your levels: This means your lines as well as TRAKTORs Master, plus there is also an independent recording gain knob in the *Recording* tab! And of course, don't overdrive the VMS4.1 hardware. If there goes distorted audio out, then you'll record distorted audio!

6. Links

The following is a short list of the most important links regarding the TRAKTOR world plus links to my person. In case you didn't know yet, who you're dealing with! ;)

6.1 NI's official TRAKTOR User Forum

The TRAKTOR forum is moderated by a handful of TRAKTOR experts, who are long time DJs. They are in constant information flow with NI, but they are not part of the official support team. So basically, it's a user forum – users help users and not the official NI support, keep that in mind!

=> http://www.native-instruments.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=105

6.2 NI's official Support

Here you find the links to the official NI support team. Be it a registration issue or any other technical problem – they'll help you out within a maximum of 2-3 working days, usually even shorter reaction times. In case you don't get an answer within this timeframe, please contact the moderators of the TRAKTOR forum and hand them your ticket number, so they can investigate what happened. In 95% of all cases, an answer got soaked up somewhere in the digital nirvana, so make sure you have a look in your spam folder, too, if you're missing an answer.

=> http://www.native-instruments.com/en/support/contact-support

6.3 ADJ's official VMS American Audio Forum

The American Audio forum is moderated by me, but similar to the TRAKTOR forum, it's not an official support forum but a users-help-users forum.

=> http://forums.americandj.com/eve/forums/a/cfrm/f/3191099573

6.4 ADJ's official support

The American Audio supporters are usually fast and friendly. In case you don't get an answer within 2 or 3 working days, please contact me, so they can investigate what happened. In 95% of all cases, an answer got soaked up somewhere in the digital nirvana, so make sure you have a look in your spam folder, too, if you're missing an answer.

EU support => service@adjgroup.eu
US support => support@americandj.com

6.5 Traktorbible

The perfect addition to the TRAKTOR manual; the book is worth every penny and Rainer updates the website quite often.

=> http://www.traktorbible.com

6.6 DJ Freshfluke

Me, myself and I – DJ for over 10 years... Coming from vinyl I started in 2004 with Finalscratch 1.5 and am using a DVS ever since; beta-testing the software and moderating the TRAKTOR forum since then, too. Since 2010 in business with ADJ as well.

And yes, TRAKTOR changed my life. ♥

=> http://www.facebook.com/dj.freshfluke
=> http://www.mixcloud.com/freshfluke
=> https://soundcloud.com/freshfluke
=> http://freshfluke.tumblr.com
=> https://twitter.com/freshfluke
=> http://instagram.com/freshfluke